ROCKET RACCOON™
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009

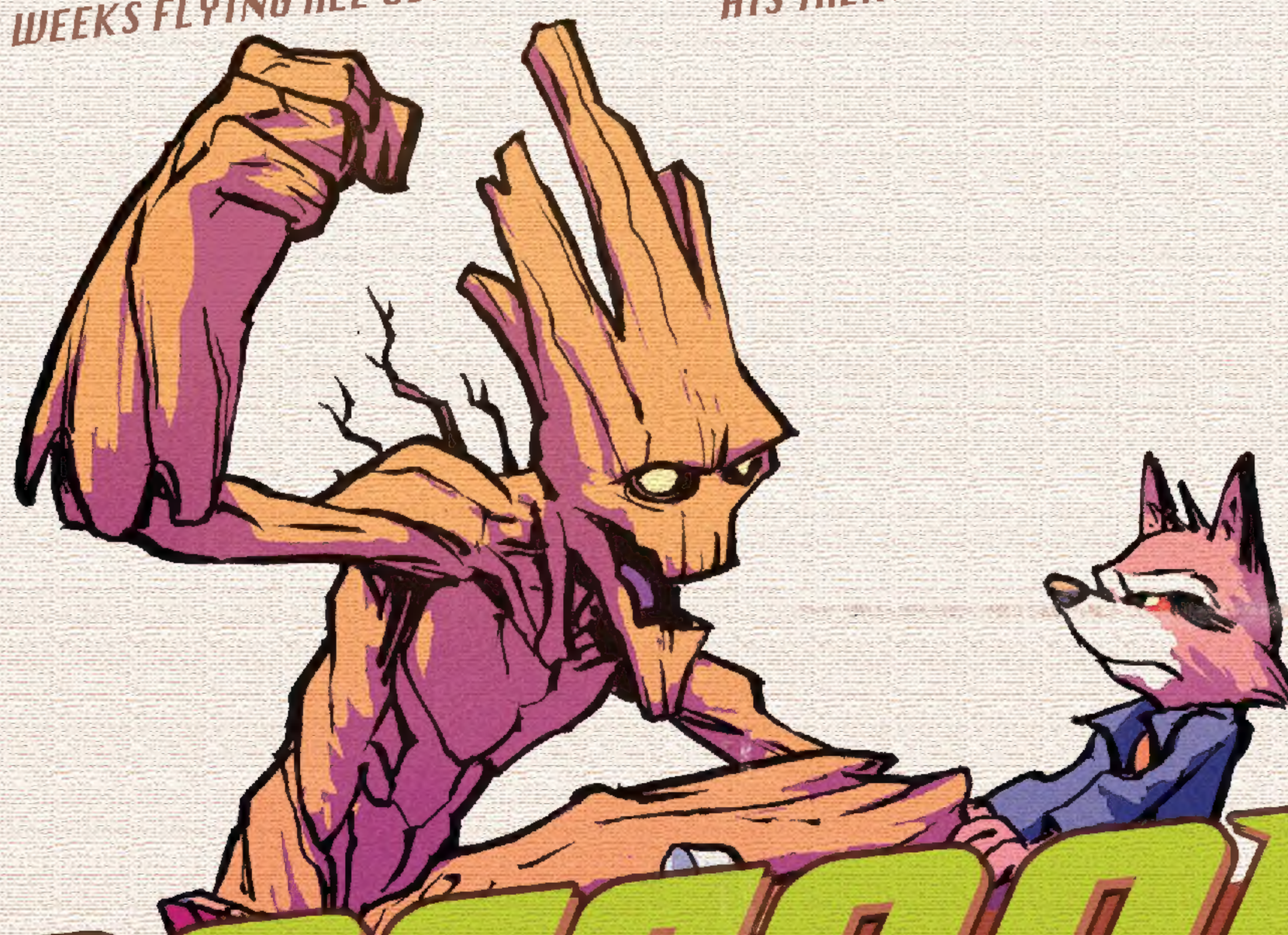
MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT PROUDLY PRESENTS

# ROCKET

GUARDIAN OF THE GALAXY, GUNSLINGER, GRUMPY GUS?

RACC-FACT #477: WHEN IN THE WILD, RACCOONS AREN'T PACK ANIMALS. ADULT RACCOONS WILL SOMETIMES BAND TOGETHER FOR PROTECTION, BUT FOR THE MOST PART--BELIEVE IT OR NOT--THEY'RE TYPICALLY LONERS.

TAKE ROCKET, FOR EXAMPLE. HE AND HIS BUDDY GROOT SEEM PRETTY INSEPARABLE, BUT AFTER SPENDING WEEKS FLYING ALL OVER THE GALAXY TOGETHER, EVEN A TALKING SPACE RACCOON AND HIS TALKING SPACE TREE PAL NEED THEIR SPACE.



# RACCOON

## MONSTER MASH

**skottie young**
*writer*

**jake parker**
*artist*

**jean-françois beaulieu**
*color artist*

**jeff eckleberry**
*letterer*

**skottie young**
*cover artist*

**janet lee**
*variant cover*

**jessica pizarro**
*compositing*

**charles beacham and devin lewis**
*assistant editors*

**sana amanat**
*editor*

**nick lowe**
*senior editor*

**axel alonso**
*editor in chief*

**joe quesada**
*chief creative officer*

**dan buckley**
*publisher*

**alan fine**
*executive producer*

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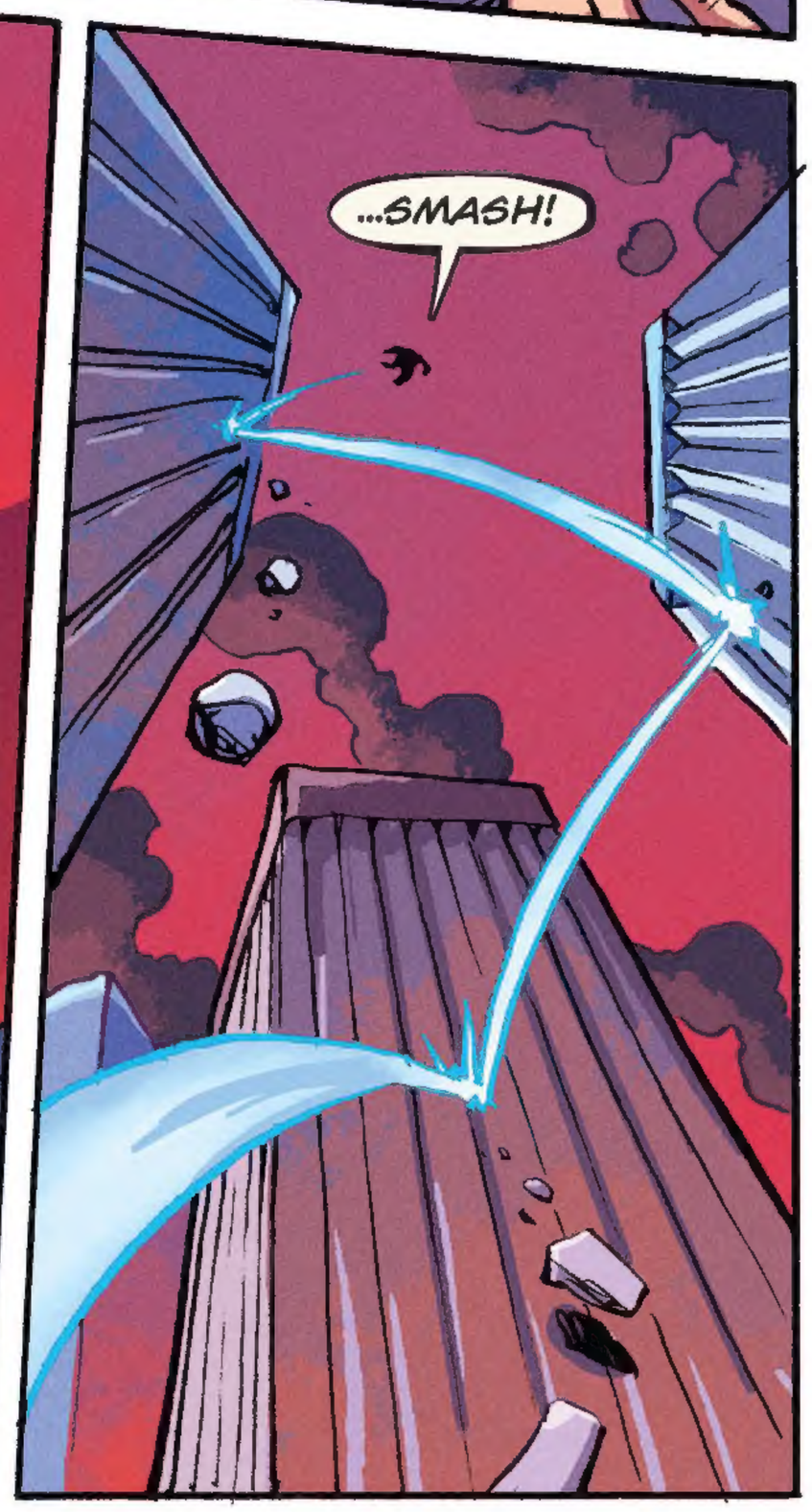
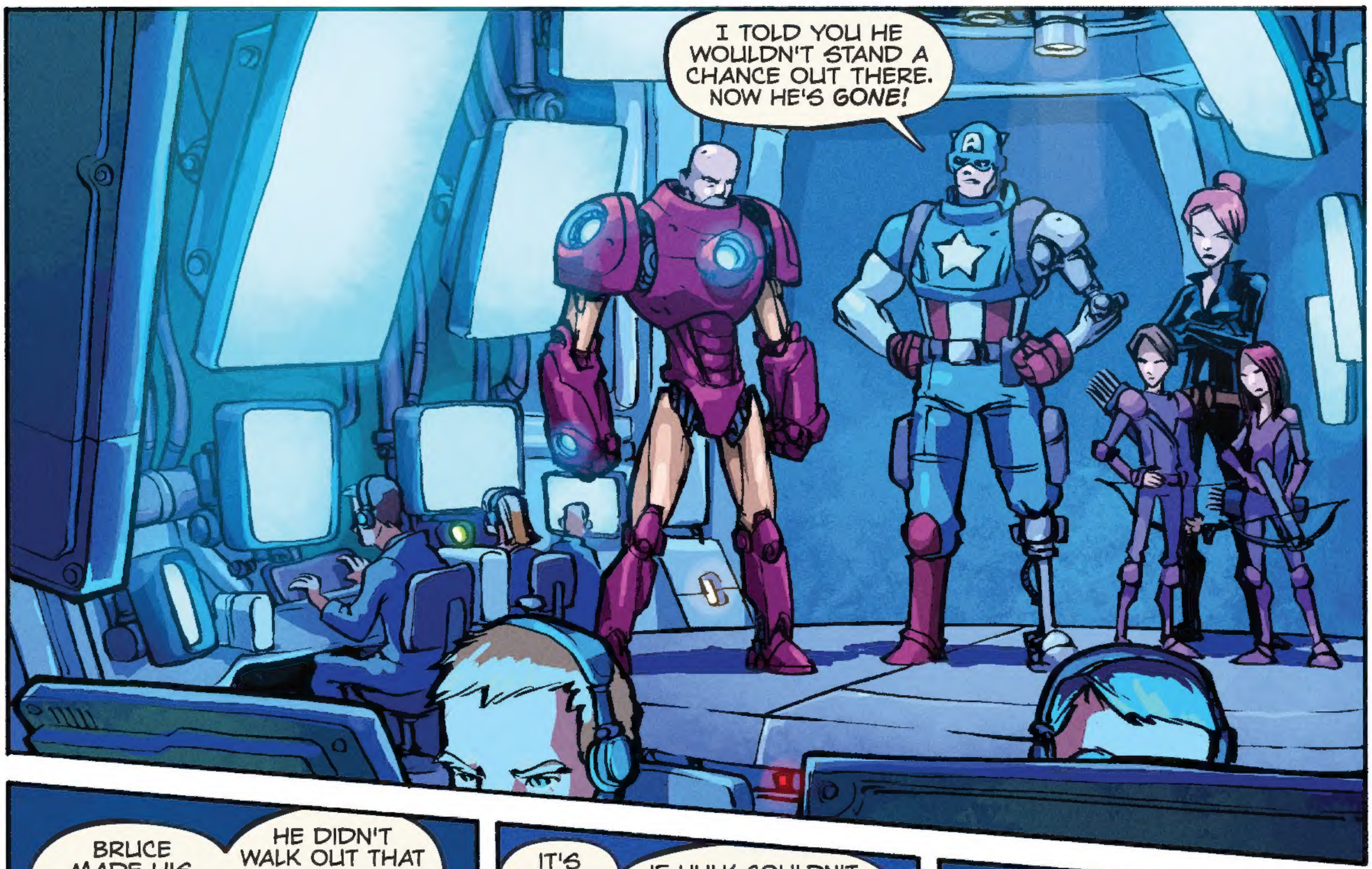


GROOOOOOT!
KREEEUNCH!

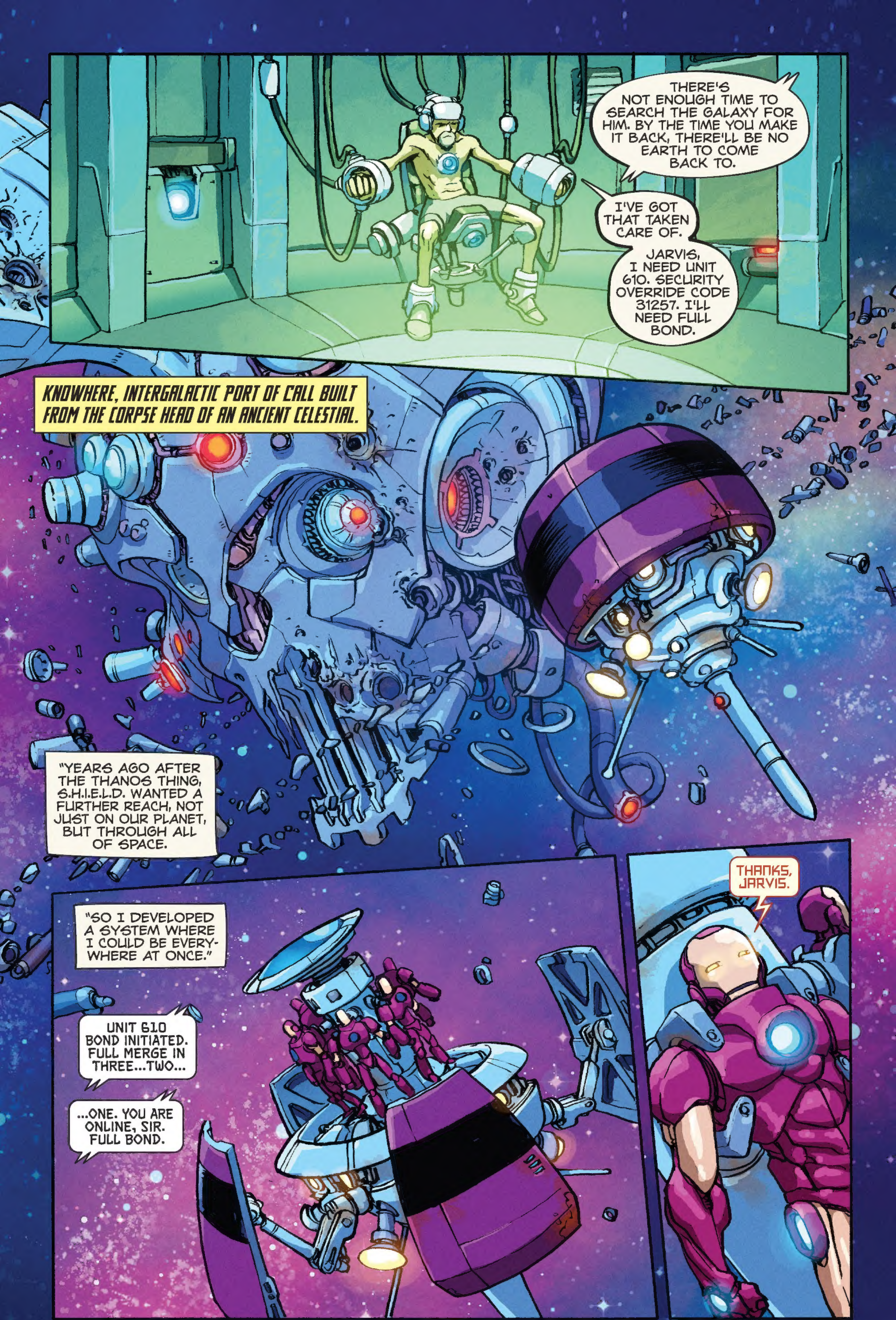

I TOLD YOU HE WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE OUT THERE. NOW HE'S GONE!

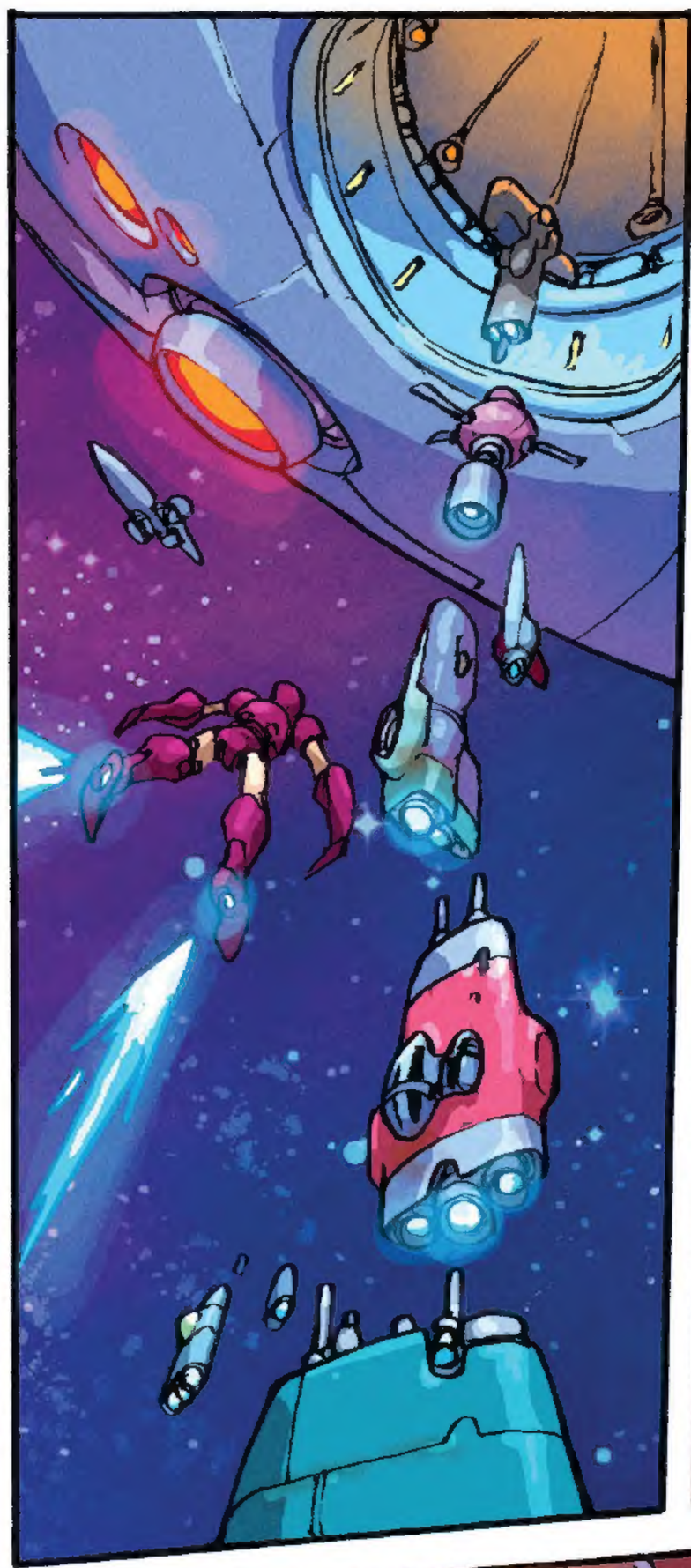
BRUCE MADE HIS CHOICE, STEVE. THIS THING IS GOING TO KILL US ALL AND HE KNEW IT.
HE DIDN'T WALK OUT THAT DOOR, HE RAN. WHICH IS WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOING IF WE WANT MANKIND TO SURVIVE.

IT'S NO USE, TONY.
IF HULK COULDN'T STOP IT, THERE'S NO ONE ON EARTH THAT CAN.

YOU MAY BE RIGHT. THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN END THIS ISN'T ON EARTH.

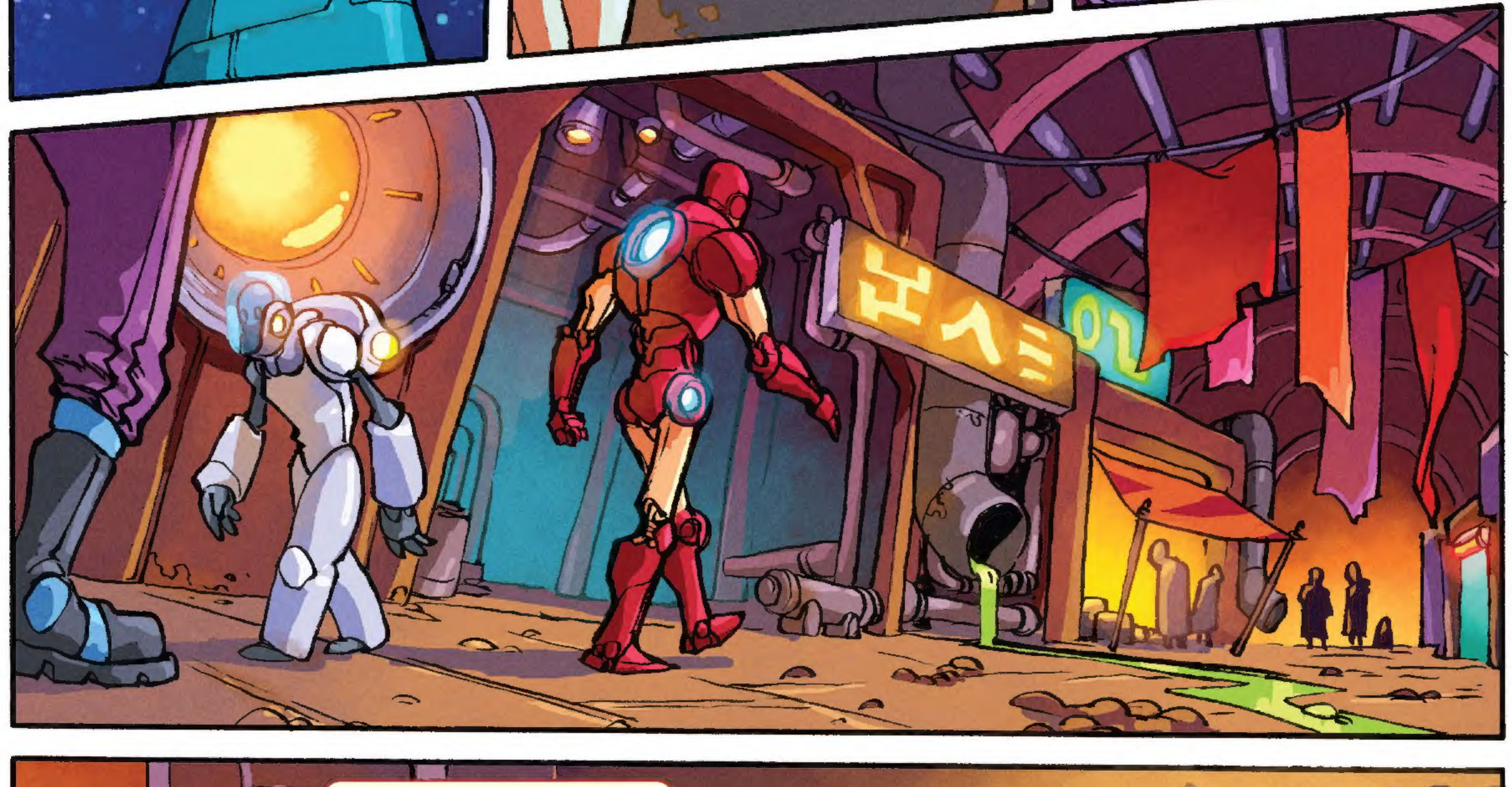
SO WE'LL HAVE TO BRING HIM HERE.


THERE'S NOT ENOUGH TIME TO SEARCH THE GALAXY FOR HIM. BY THE TIME YOU MAKE IT BACK, THERE'LL BE NO EARTH TO COME BACK TO.
I'VE GOT THAT TAKEN CARE OF.
JARVIS, I NEED UNIT 610. SECURITY OVERRIDE CODE 31257. I'LL NEED FULL BOND.
KNOWHERE, INTERGALACTIC PORT OF CALL BUILT FROM THE CORPSE HEAD OF AN ANCIENT CELESTIAL.
"YEARS AGO AFTER THE THANOS THING, S.H.I.E.L.D. WANTED A FURTHER REACH, NOT JUST ON OUR PLANET, BUT THROUGH ALL OF SPACE.
"SO I DEVELOPED A SYSTEM WHERE I COULD BE EVERY-WHERE AT ONCE."
UNIT 610 BOND INITIATED. FULL MERGE IN THREE...TWO...
...ONE. YOU ARE ONLINE, SIR. FULL BOND.
THANKS, JARVIS.



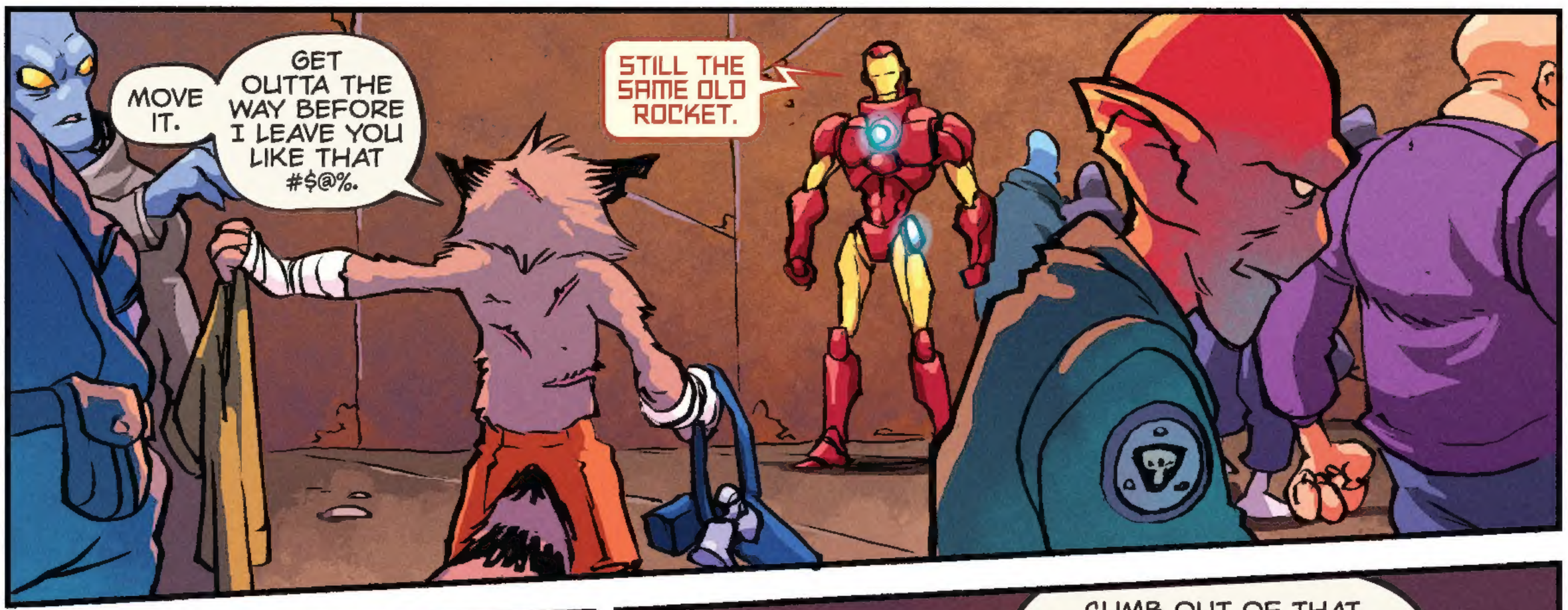
DO YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND HIM?
YEAH. IT'S TUESDAY SO HE'LL BE DOWN IN THE GUT ANY TIME AFTER 19:45:89.

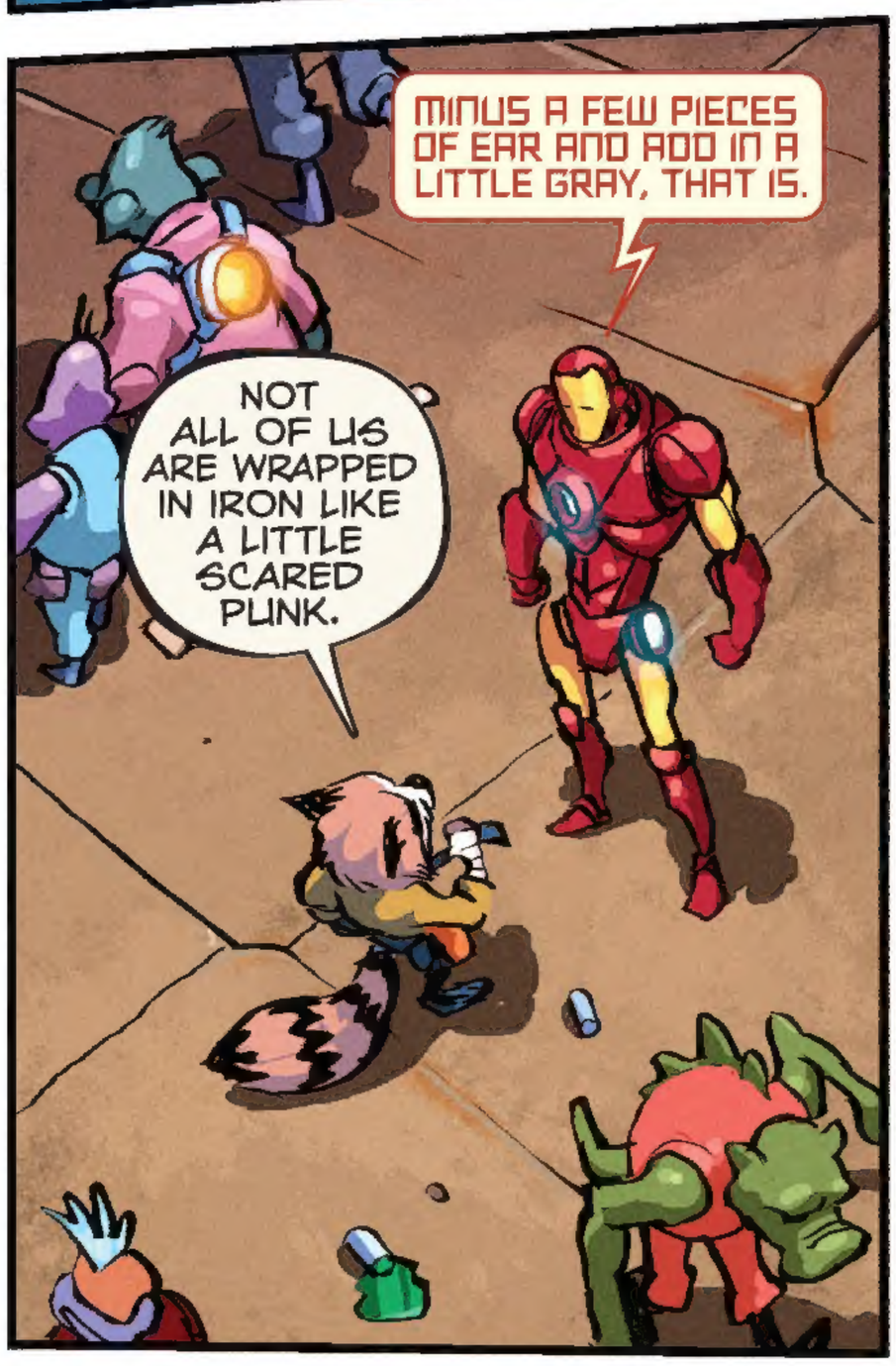
THANKS.
SURE. BUT THAT AIN'T WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE ANYMORE.
AND CAN YOU TELL HIM THAT I'LL HAVE HIS CREDITS NEXT WEEK? I LIKE ALL OF MY TENTACLES RIGHT WHERE THEY ARE.

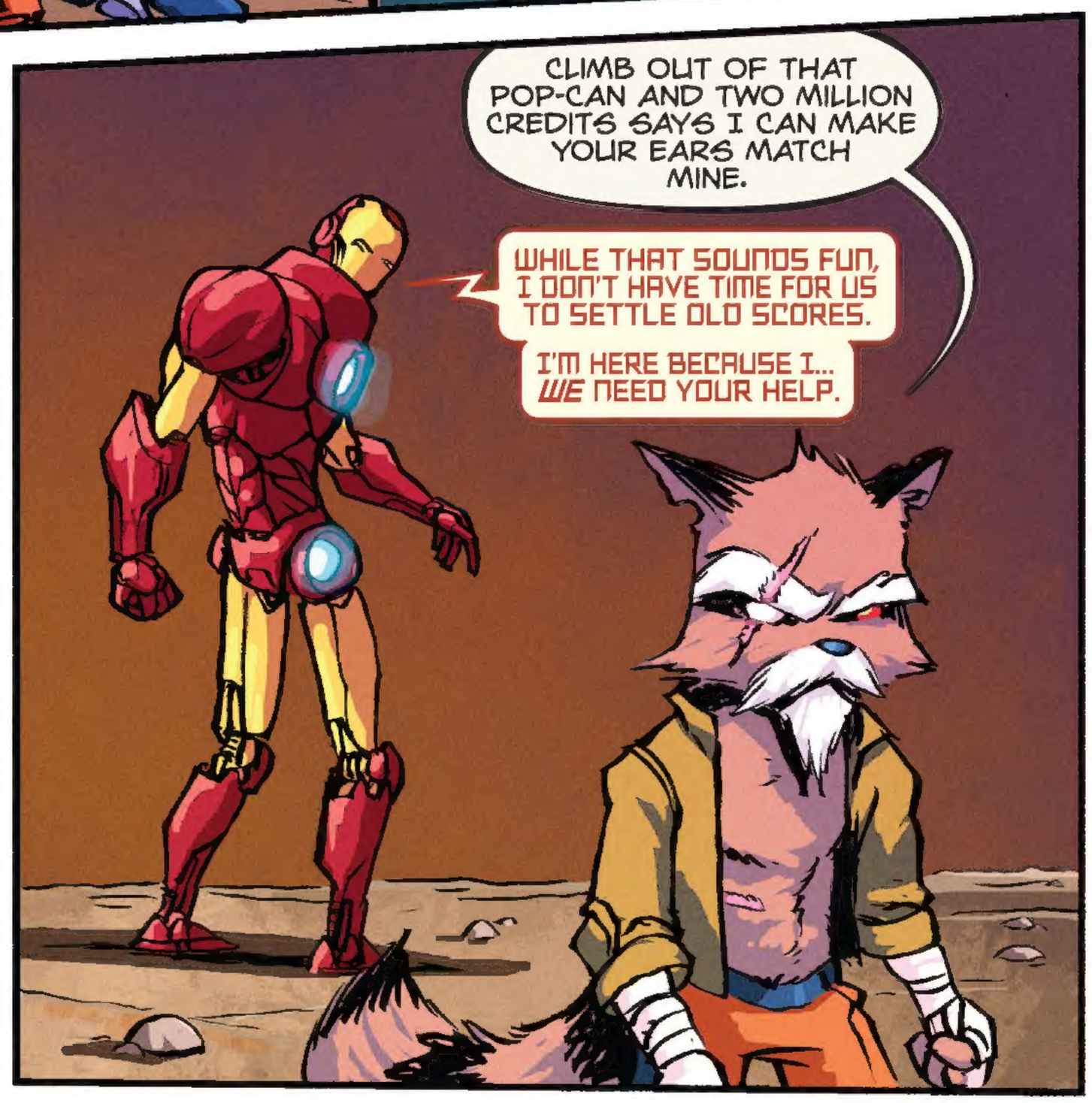


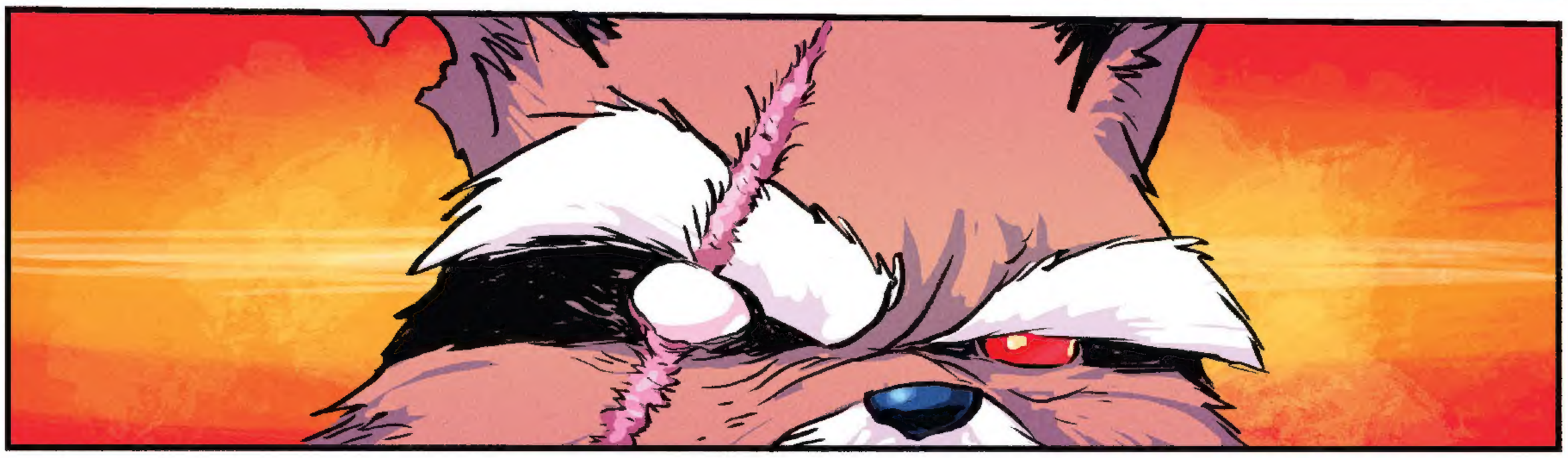
WELL, WELL. HE MAY LOOK DIFFERENT BUT HE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT.
I TOLD YOU...

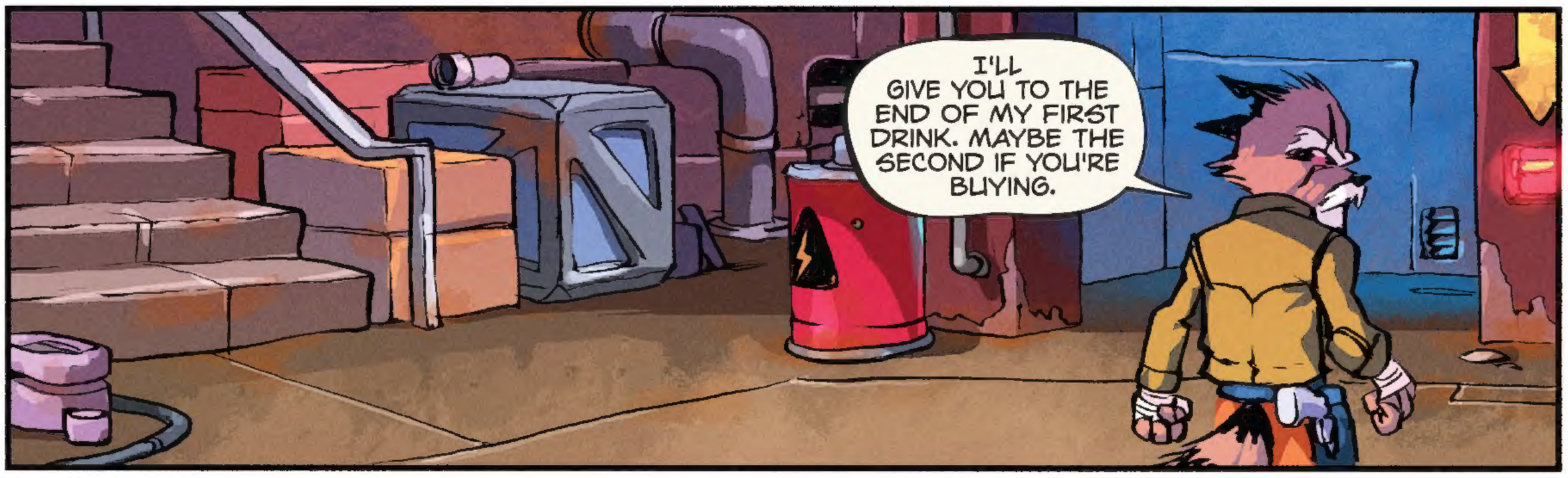
PUNCH
...I'M NOT...
...A RACCOON.


MOVE IT.
GET OUTTA THE WAY BEFORE I LEAVE YOU LIKE THAT #$@%.
STILL THE SAME OLD ROCKET.


MINUS A FEW PIECES OF EAR AND ADD IN A LITTLE GRAY, THAT IS.
NOT ALL OF US ARE WRAPPED IN IRON LIKE A LITTLE SCARED PUNK.


CLIMB OUT OF THAT POP-CAN AND TWO MILLION CREDITS SAYS I CAN MAKE YOUR EARS MATCH MINE.
WHILE THAT SOUNDS FUN, I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR US TO SETTLE OLD SCORES.
I'M HERE BECAUSE I... *WE* NEED YOUR HELP.




I'LL GIVE YOU TO THE END OF MY FIRST DRINK. MAYBE THE SECOND IF YOU'RE BUYING.

TEN MINUTES LATER.

...AND THAT'S WHY WE NEED YOU. S.H.I.E.L.D. THINKS THE CORE OF HIS BEING IS BURIED IN THERE SOMEWHERE.

IF THEY'RE RIGHT, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN REACH HIM. MAYBE BRING HIM BACK OUT.

I *KNEW* YOU AND YOUR LITTLE CLUB WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS IF HE STAYED. I TOLD HIM EARTHERS CAN'T BE TRUSTED BUT HE WANTED TO BE *ONE OF YOU.*

HIS ABILITY TO REGENERATE POST-MORTEM WAS SO IMPORTANT AND COULD'VE HELPED CURE JUST ABOUT EVERY DISEASE IN THE UNIVERSE.

AND NO ONE FORCED HIM. HE DIDN'T WALK THROUGH THE DOOR TO HELP US, HE R--

YEAH, *HE RAN.*

DO YOUR LACKEYS BUY THAT TIRED-ASS LINE STILL? I BET CAPTAIN AMERICA JUST EATS IT UP, RIGHT?

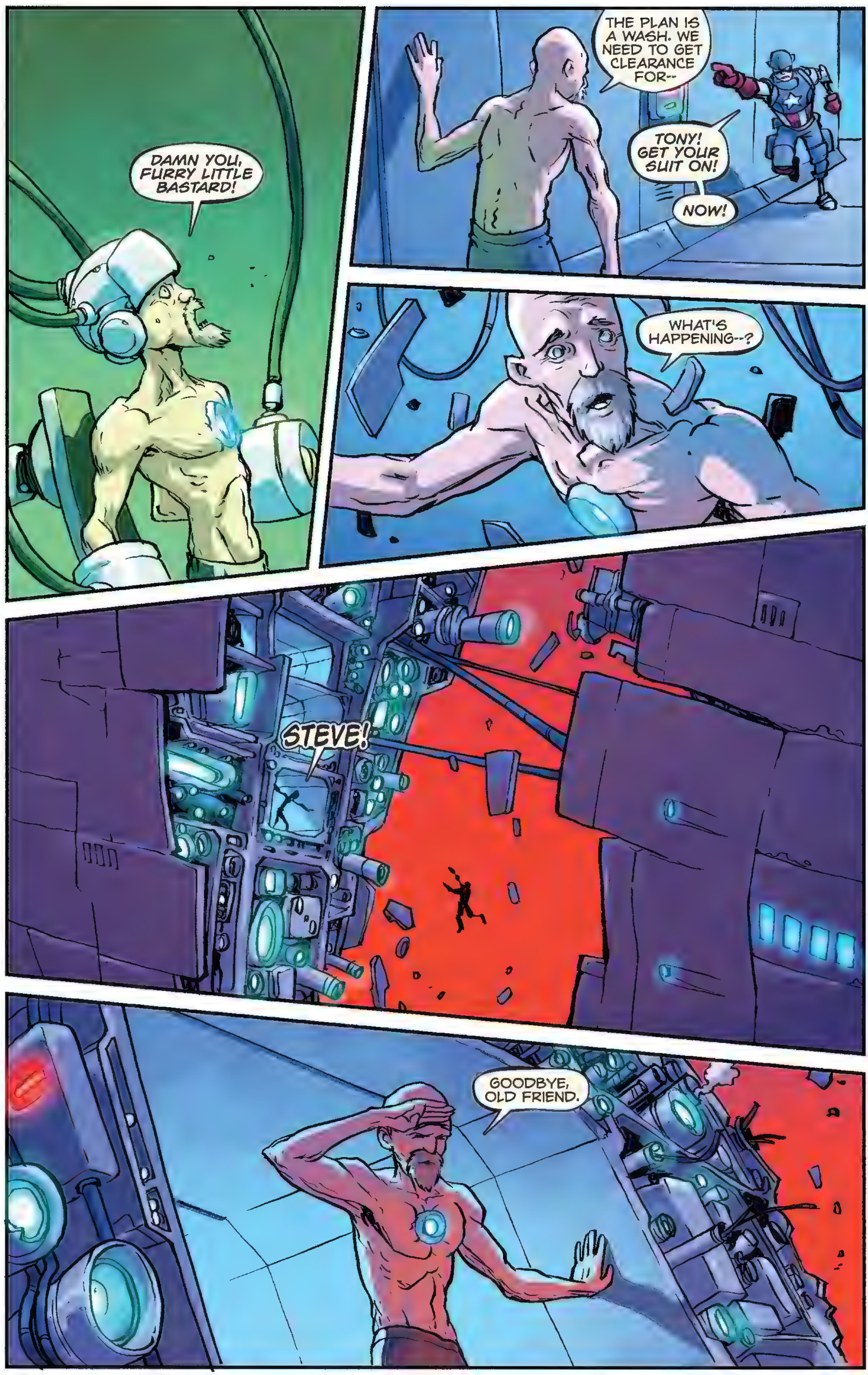
WE NEEDED GROOT TO HELP US LIVE LONGER. BUT ONCE WE TRIED TO EXTRACT THE CELLS, HIS BODY STARTED TO FIGHT FOR *HIM* TO LIVE LONGER.

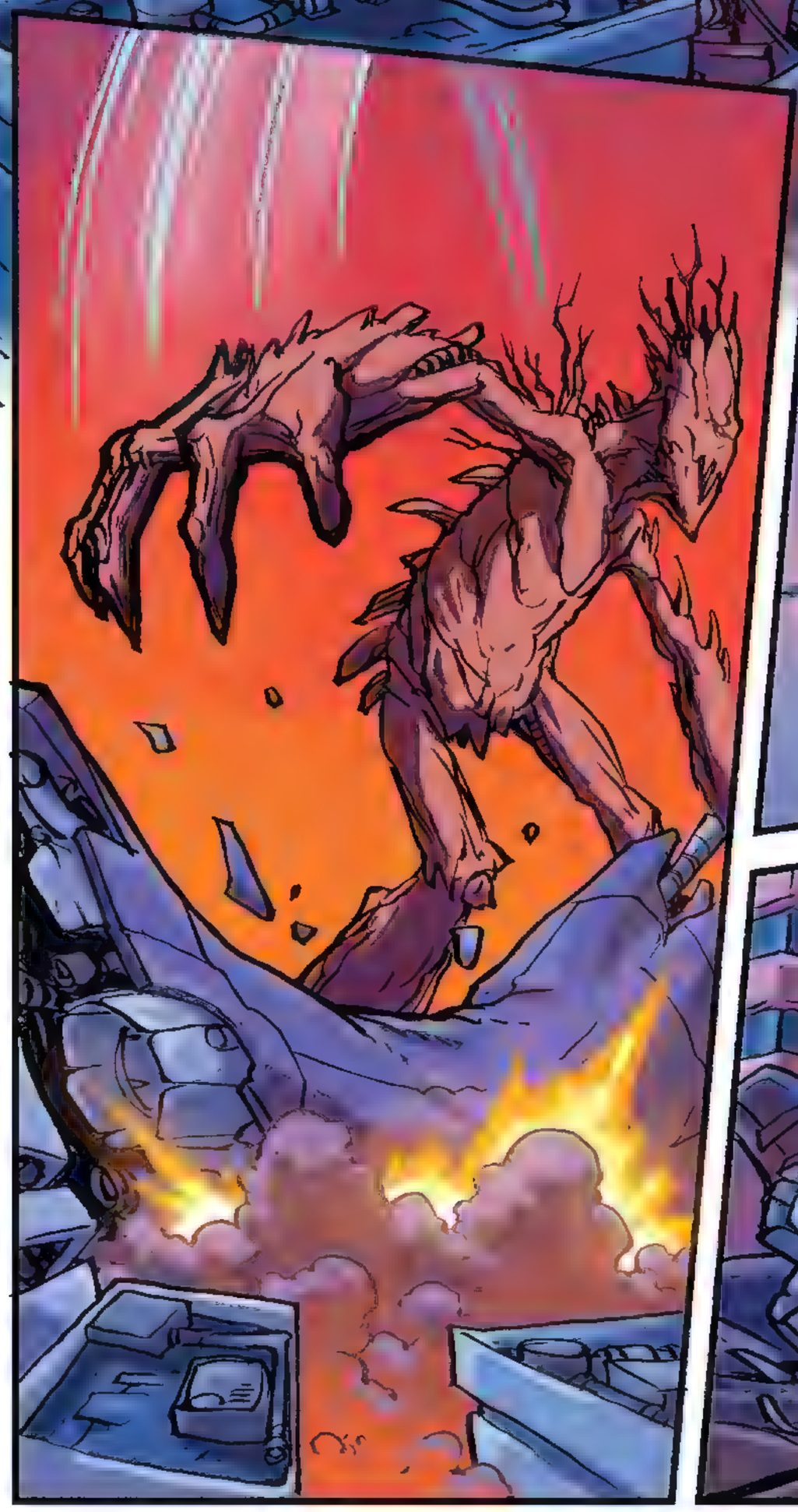
HE BECAME... THIS.

THAT'S ONE HELL OF AN UNCOMFORTABLE BED YOU'VE MADE.

BUT YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO SPOON 'CAUSE I AIN'T LYING IN IT WITH YA.

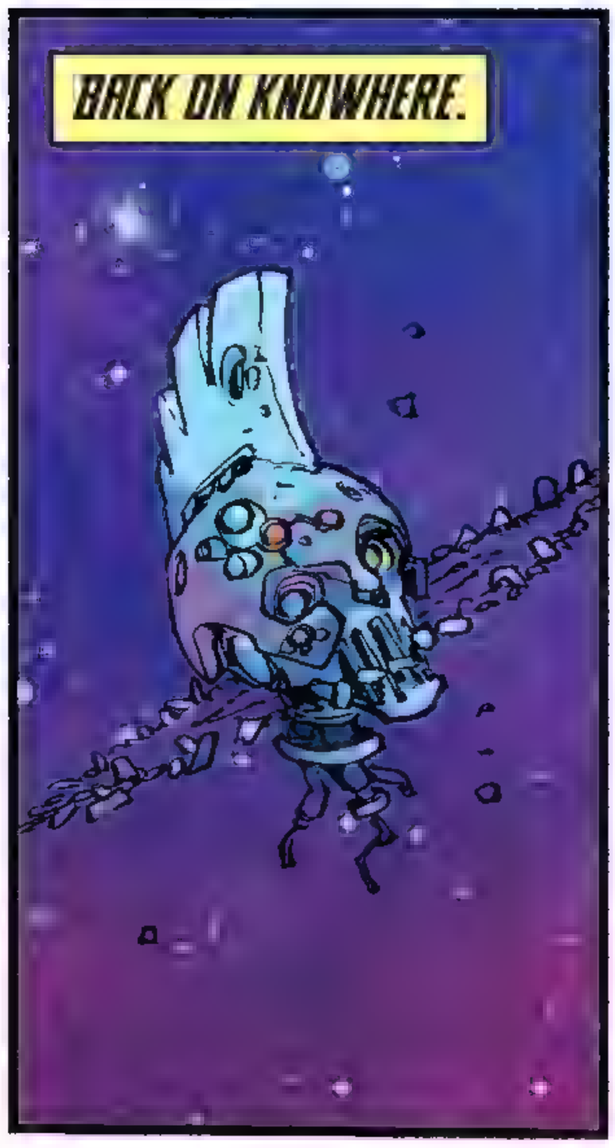
I'M SORRY, ROCKET. BUT YOU'RE COMING WITH ME WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR N--
WHOOOSH!
CRACKLE
YOU'RE JUST A COWARD WITH TOYS.
CLICK
TOO BAD THEY AREN'T GONNA SAVE YOU THIS TIME.


DAMN YOU, FURRY LITTLE BASTARD!
THE PLAN IS A WASH. WE NEED TO GET CLEARANCE FOR--
TONY! GET YOUR SUIT ON!
NOW!
WHAT'S HAPPENING--?
STEVE!
GOODBYE, OLD FRIEND.



I'VE FOUGHT WORSE THINGS THAN A PISSED-OFF PLANT.
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT TO KILL ME.

BOOM
THAT'LL DO IT.


BACK ON KNOWHERE.

WHAT DID THEY EXPECT ME TO DO, MAN? PULL THE OLD XANDER-HUGGING-WILLOW-YOU-WERE-EVIL-BUT-THERE'S-GOOD-LEFT-IN-YOU-YET ROUTINE?

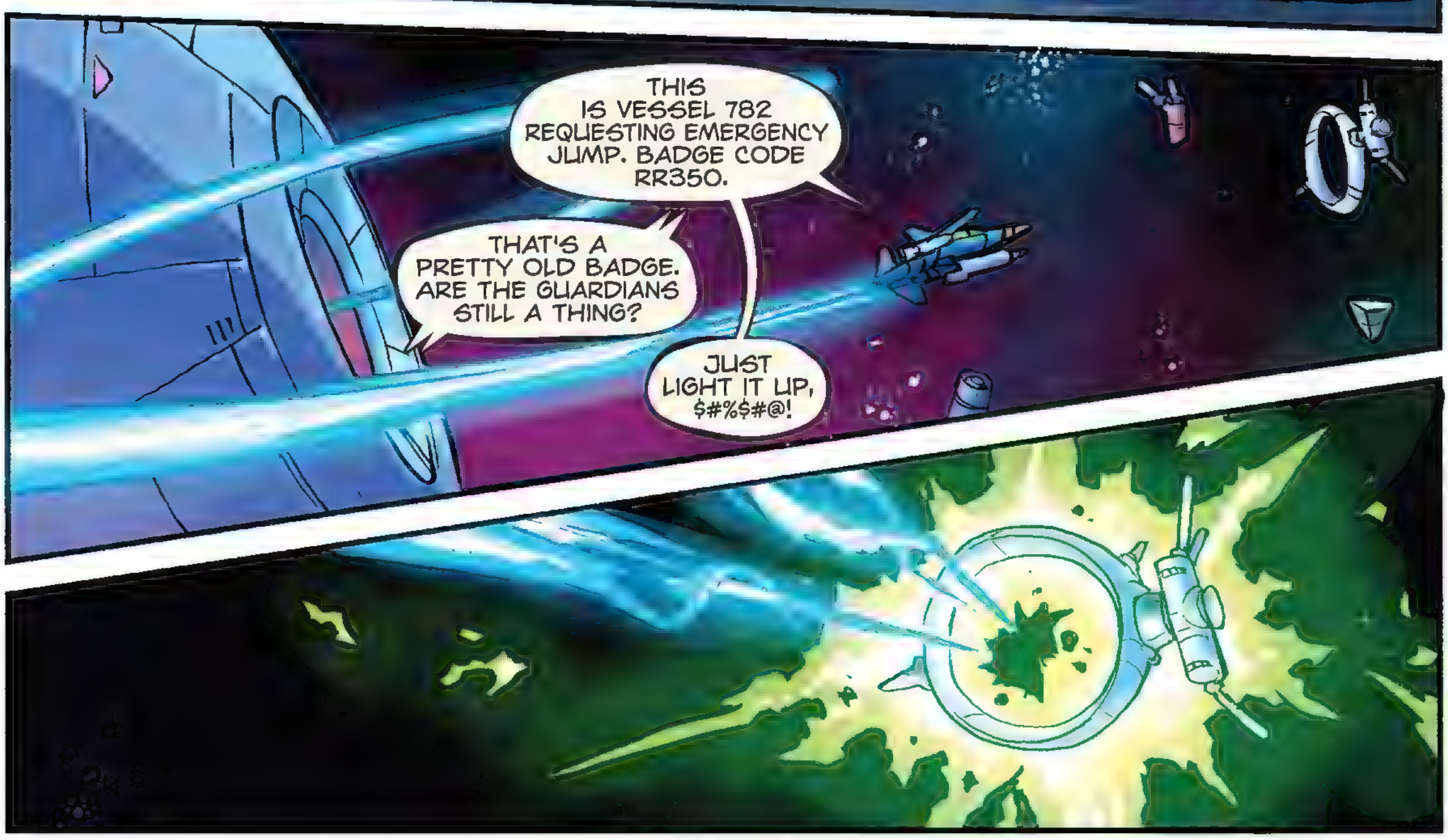
YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT MY STYLE.
WE WOULDN'T EVEN BE IN THIS POSITION IF YOU WOULD'VE JUST STAYED WITH ME.

BUT NO. I WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU ANY MORE. YOU WANTED TO GO BE A HERO.

NOW LOOK AT YOU. YOU'RE A DAMN KAIJU KILLING EVERYTHING IN SIGHT AND NOW THEY WANT TO *KILL* YOU.

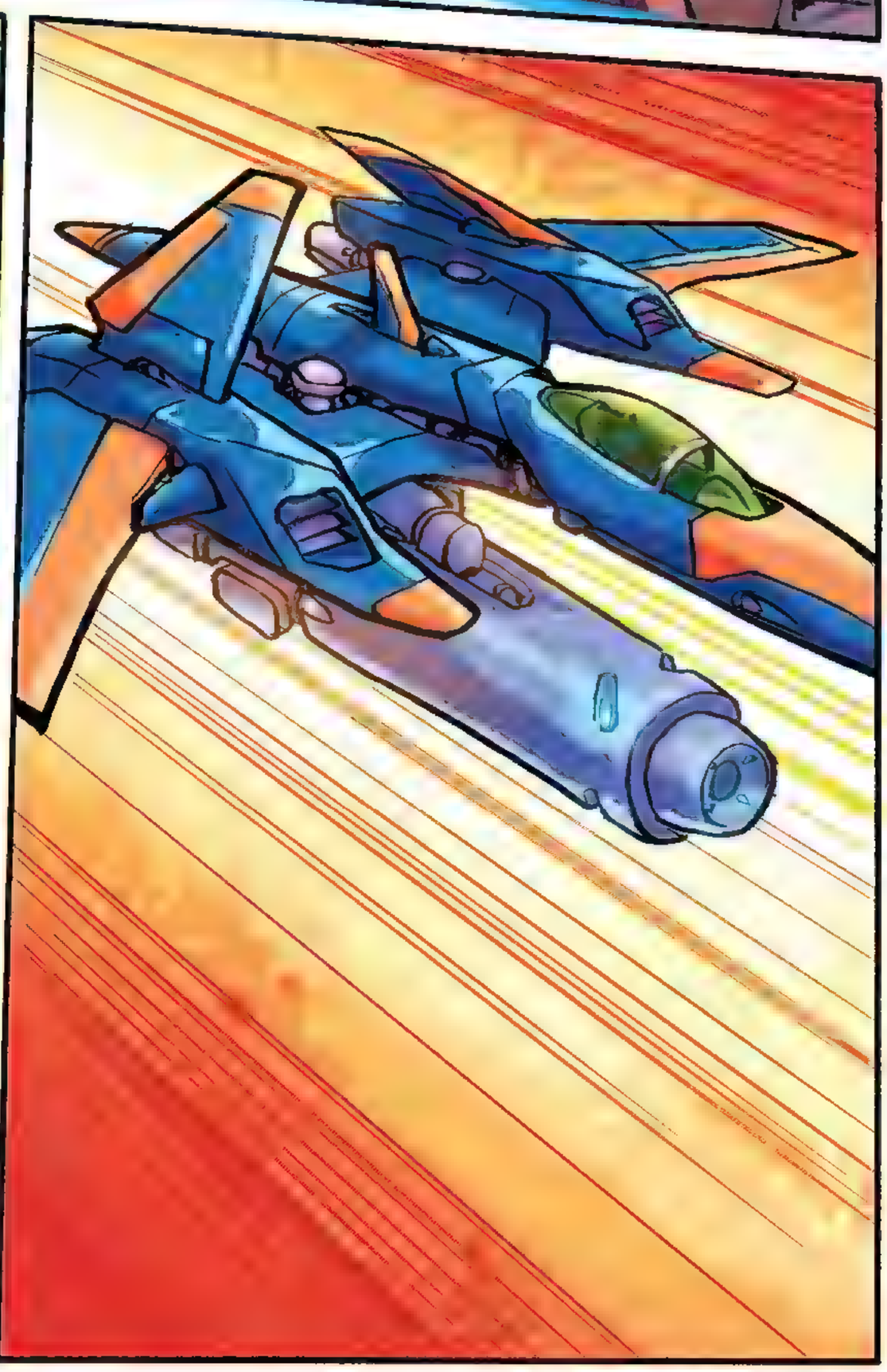
BUT I AIN'T GONNA LET THAT HAPPEN, YOU STUBBORN #@%$!

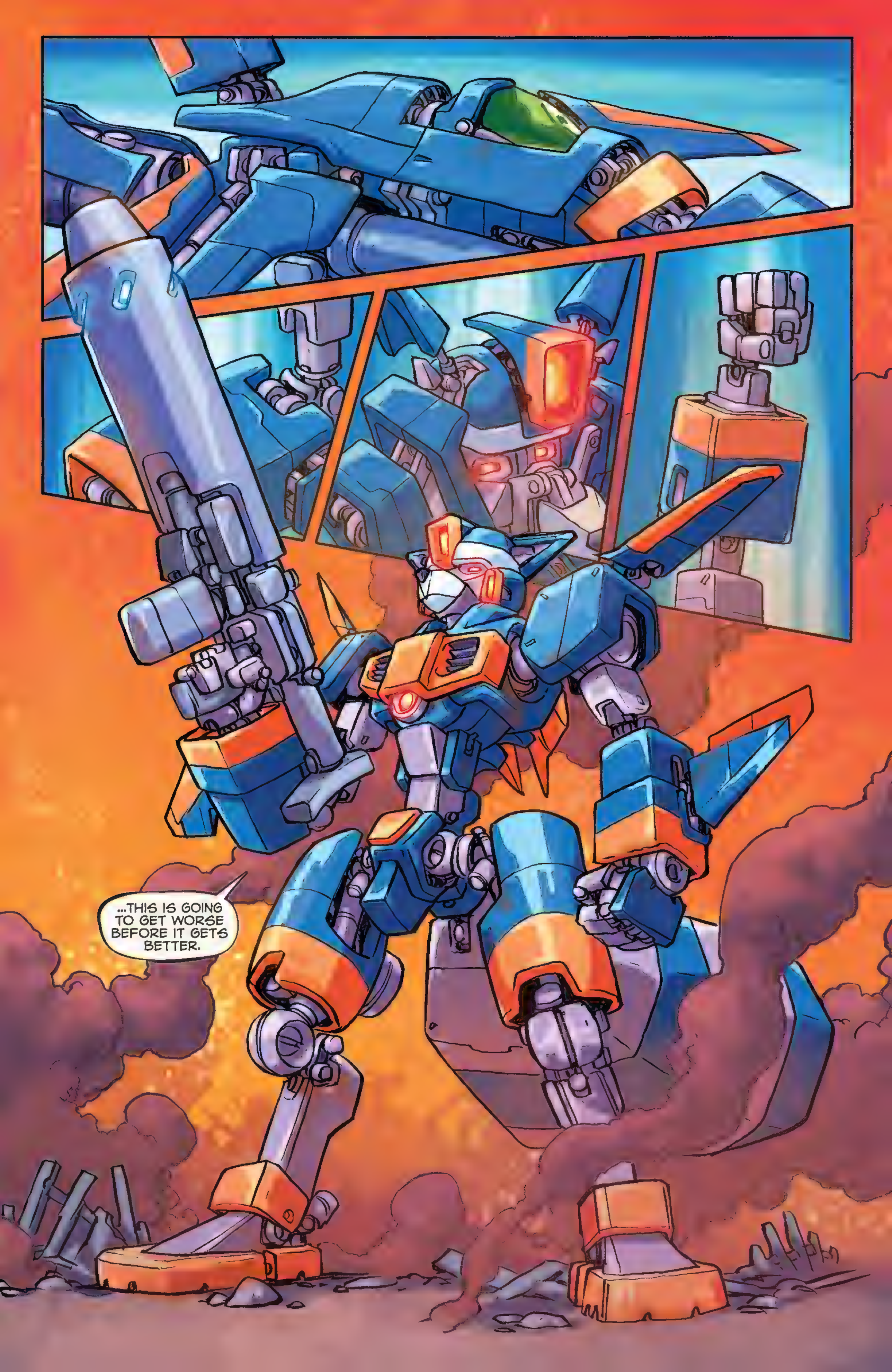
Woop Woop


THIS IS VESSEL 782 REQUESTING EMERGENCY JUMP. BADGE CODE RR350.
THAT'S A PRETTY OLD BADGE. ARE THE GUARDIANS STILL A THING?
JUST LIGHT IT UP, $#%$#@!

BACK ON EARTH.

GROOOOT

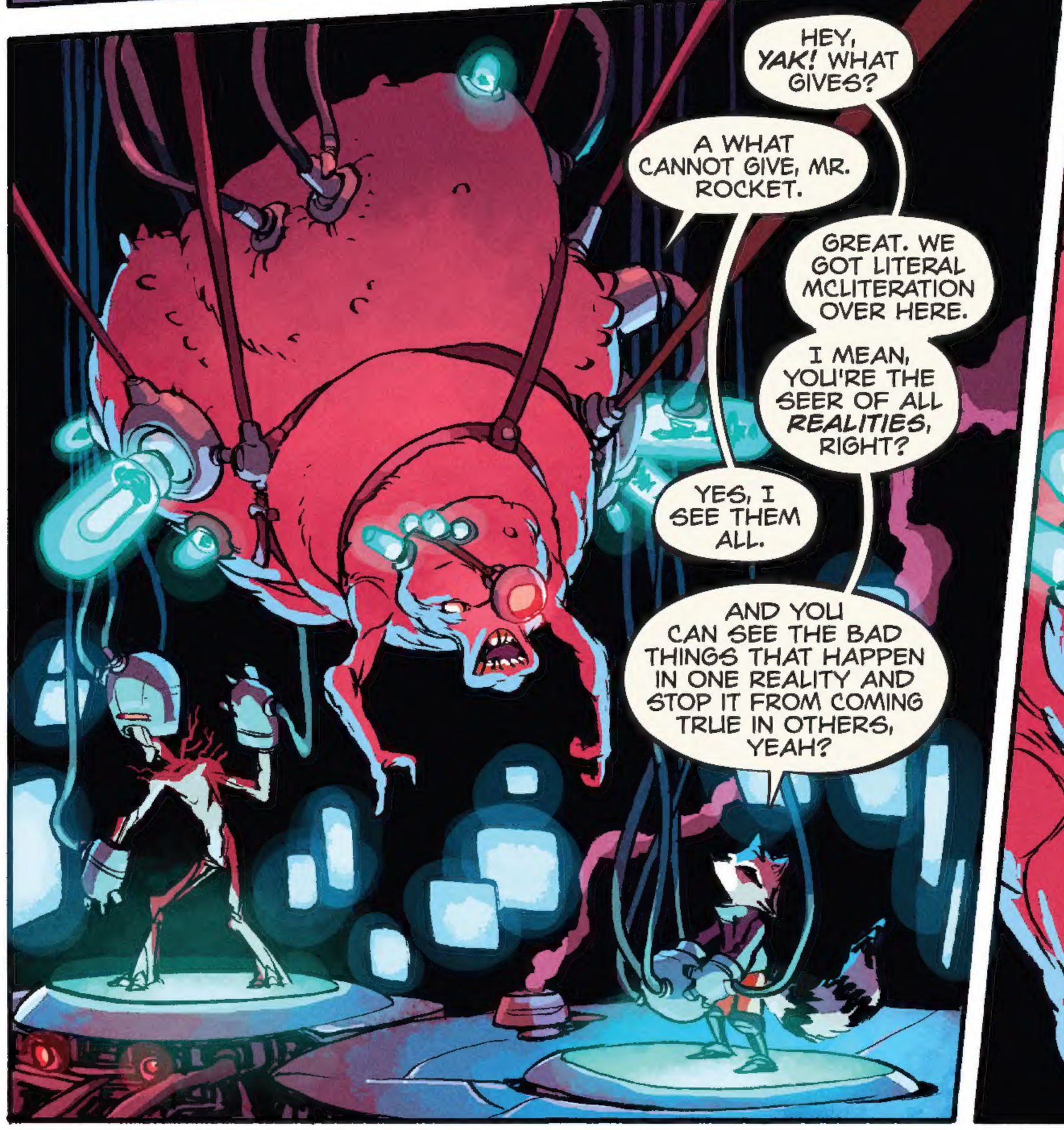



...THIS IS GOING TO GET WORSE BEFORE IT GETS BETTER.

CRASHOOM!

GAME OVER
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!?!

GAME
OVER
K.O.
ARE YOU SERIOUS? #!%@$ THIS GAME!


HEY, YAK! WHAT GIVES?
A WHAT CANNOT GIVE, MR. ROCKET.
GREAT. WE GOT LITERAL MCLITERATION OVER HERE.
I MEAN, YOU'RE THE SEER OF ALL REALITIES, RIGHT?
YES, I SEE THEM ALL.
AND YOU CAN SEE THE BAD THINGS THAT HAPPEN IN ONE REALITY AND STOP IT FROM COMING TRUE IN OTHERS, YEAH?

I DO NOT STOP ANYTHING. WITHIN THE MANY REALITIES, I CAN ONLY SEE.
IT IS ONLY THE USER WHO CAN CHANGE HIS PATH WITHIN MY...
...GAME, DID YOU CALL IT?

I GET ALL THAT! WE JACK INTO OURSELVES IN THIS ALTERNATE WORLD AND I HAVE TO STOP *KAIJU GROOT* FROM DESTROYING ALL MANKIND.
BUT I GET *STRAIGHT-UP MURDERED* BY THIS BARKY *KRAG* AS SOON AS I GET TO THE BOSS LEVEL.

YES, YOU DID. WELL DONE, MR. ROCKET.

WELL DONE? NICE. I'M MURDERED IN THE GAME TODAY *AND* I'M GONNA BE MURDERED BY MY BESTIE IN THE FUTURE AND THIS PIECE OF WORK IS SAYING "*WELL DONE.*"
COME ON, GROOT, LET'S BLOW THIS LATE '90S JOINT BEFORE HE STARTS BLASTING *PRODIGY* UP IN HERE.

GAME OVER
GROOT?

HEY, WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?
HE IS STILL INSIDE DOING HIS PART. IT SEEMS THERE HAS BEEN A TIME LAPSE. AS I SAID, WELL DONE, MR. ROCKET. YOU SHOULD SEE FOR YOURSELF.

OH, BY ALL MEANS. I'LL PUT MY HELMET BACK ON AND WATCH A MONSTER CONSUME MY FLESH BECAUSE WATCHING YOUR OWN DEATH IS A SUPER HEALTHY PASTIME AND--

WHOA. MELODRAMATIC FUTUREY IRON MAN WAS *RIGHT*. OUR FRIENDSHIP *SAVED* THE WORLD. I GOT THROUGH TO HIM BY SACRIFICING MYSELF.
I...I'M A...
"...$#@% %!#@$%& HERO!!"
THE END.

ZONE